

Greetings from Iraq. We are now on mission in Iraq, having completed a Transfer of Authority with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division last week. You can be very proud of your soldiers – all have been working hard to continue the mission and take care of each other. Last week brought rain, which brought mud. The water drains here very slowly. However, the temperatures remain moderate and comfortable. Now on for news from each of the units...

This week has been very busy for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company “InnKeepers.” They have been busy finalizing their transition with 3ID and getting into their mission sets. As a tribute to all of the hard work that our Soldiers do on a daily basis, each week we’ll highlight two soldiers from the company who have distinguished themselves amongst their peers. The players of the week for this week are from our Headquarters Platoon; SGT Lorriane Pozas, and, SPC Travis Puckett.

SGT Pozas is the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the company Orderly Room. She has the never-ending job of collecting, correcting, and processing all of the paperwork for every soldier in the company. SGT Pozas works daily to ensure that each and every Soldier is taken care of and has become a trusted confidant to many of the Soldiers in the company.

SPC Puckett is the driver for the Battalion Commander. He is responsible for the transportation and safety of the Battalion Commander on a daily basis. SPC Puckett works long hours and when he is not driving he lends his communications expertise to the battalion S3/S6 shop in support of other mission. SPC Puckett is currently preparing to appear before the promotion board this month – we wish him luck!

The Innkeepers thank each and every one of you for your love, support and prayers. Godspeed! Now let’s see what’s up at the Division Headquarters...

It is situation normal, with the soldiers of Division Troops Company being very busy as they took the last few days to train and transition with their counterparts from 3ID. The week culminated with the Transition of Authority Ceremony, which officially turned over the Area of Responsibility from 3ID’s control to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Most of the Division Troops Company had some part in preparing for the important ceremony. SGT Ryan Macedo and the others from the Division Honor Guard practiced for several days for another flawless execution of bearing the Division and National Colors. The “starting pistol has been officially fired” now, so to speak, and the Division Troops Company is out of the “starting gate” and moving very strongly. You all can be very proud. Now on to the division signal company...

Hello Friends and Family of Alpha Company, STB. Our Soldiers continue to do great things and complete the mission. Headquarters Platoon has set up shop and under the leadership of SSG Artis Haston and SSG Asheifa Herndon the soldiers have got the administrative and logistical support in place and running like a well oiled machine. The Extension Detachment recently had three soldiers recognized by the Assistant Division Commander for Support, BG Halverson, for their exceptional support during Division Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Operations in Kuwait: SGT Owen Martin for his work as the lead Automations technician, SGT Jeff George for his efforts in supporting Joint Network Node Validation, and SPC Garry Tuggle for his

efforts in support operations for the RSOI Command Post. The whole Company is proud of them and their accomplishments.

The Command Post detachment has been busy as well. Both the TAC1 and TAC2 platoons completed their Relief in Place without issue. While all the Soldiers gave 110%, of special note were the efforts of Sergeants Miriam Ryan, Misty Eaquinto, and Johnathan Hayes whose expert knowledge of the Joint Network Node equipment resulted in a seamless transition and no loss of communications. Just as important as the communicators of the Battalion, are the musicians. Now on for an update from the Band...

This has been a busy week for the Band. On Monday, 2 January 06, Sergeant First Class (P) Steven Foxx reenlisted for indefinite status by the enlisting officer Major Terri Wise, 4ID Special Troops Battalion Executive Officer. It's a great honor to have such a fine soldier reenlist to stay within our ranks. The Band also prepared for and played a Morale Welfare and Recreation show here at our camp over the weekend. This followed on the heels of the New Years Eve show I mentioned in my last note. This last weekend's performance was geared especially for the soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. All is well in the Band and everyone sends their love. Now that we've heard from the Jazz Knights, let's see what's going on with the soldiers of Delta Company...

D Company has many different and unique sections that are a vital part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's mission while here in Iraq. Of note this week are the troops that maintain and connect the systems in the company. The maintainers are led by CW3 Kevin N. Williams and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge SFC Robert Harrell. Their team includes CW2 Jeffrey Lee, SSG Charles Michael, SGT Nicholas Cutbirth, SGT Francisco Pagan, SPC Branning and SPC Garza. The folks that connect the systems are led by CW2 Timothy Brown. His team includes SPC Tabatha Pressley and SPC Kristopher Patke. Working together these two sections did a great job with the Transfer of Authority (TOA) from our counterparts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and are now taking control of the network and systems maintenance. Since we have deployed to Iraq, we have had the pleasure of promoting SFC Harrell and SPC Garza. These two soldiers are very deserving of their promotions and will positively fulfill their potential at the next higher grade. And as they move on to bigger and better things, the Public Affairs Detachment will be there to record it all.

Greetings again from the 363<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment! The MPAD folks are almost ready to put their first edition of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's newspaper to bed. For those who don't know newspaper lingo, that means they're almost ready to print. One of the lighter sections of the paper will be an advice column written by one of our broadcast news photographers. His name is SSG Adam Navarro, he's one of the soldiers who was transferred in from New York to fill one of the MPAD's billets. SSG Navarro is a fine soldier and loves doing for others. He was a member of the Army Reserve when the tragedy in New York City happened on 9-11. SSG Navarro was a NYPD officer in training and remembers that day that no one will forget, "We were pulled away from their classroom to go help secure the neighborhoods." He is truly one

of our best. His column is called "Ask Troy"... He says that is what his mother calls him. Just another great American soldier, I'm glad he's here with us. We know the troops will enjoy "The Ivy Leaf's" first issue. Lastly, a word from our security company.

The Gators of Alpha Company are moving at a rapid pace to assume the responsibilities set forth by their current higher headquarters, the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's STB. They have been selected to provide security for some particularly important division assets. In just a couple more days they will be completely in control of the responsibilities they've been given and will watch their counterparts, a happy field artillery battery, return to the United States. Gator morale is high as they find themselves professionally welcomed into the Special Troops Battalion.

That's all for this note from Iraq. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we are keeping you in ours. Also, continue to look after one another and feel free to contact my Rear Detachment Commander, Captain Jeff Jordan, for any issues you need help with. He can be reached at (254) 449-3184, or Email at [Jeffrey.j.jordan@us.army.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.j.jordan@us.army.mil).

Sincerely, LTC John Baker